

Application No. 10/814,974
Amendment Dated 9/23/05
Reply to Office Action of 6/23/05

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

In the Claims:

1. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A foot control for use with medical apparatus having multiple power-driven functions to position a patient supported thereupon in multiple work positions, comprising:

a base adapted to be supported on a surface;

a membrane switch supported by said base and having a plurality of switch elements, each of said switch elements being operable, when actuated, to control at least one of the power-driven functions of the medical apparatus; and

a flexible keypad overlying said membrane switch and having a plurality of switch actuators extending from said keypad toward said membrane switch, each of said switch actuators being generally in registry with a respective one of said plurality of switch elements to actuate said switch element in response to selective pressure applied on said keypad by a user's foot[.].

wherein said keypad is configured to simultaneously actuate a pair of said switch elements in response to selective pressure applied on said keypad by a user's foot so as to simultaneously control two independent power-driven functions of the medical apparatus upon actuation of said pair of switch elements.

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2. (ORIGINAL) The foot control of claim 1 wherein said keypad and said plurality of switch actuators are integrally molded from a flexible material.

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4. (ORIGINAL) The foot control of claim 1 wherein said keypad and said membrane switch define independent first and second operating stations, each of said first and second operating stations being configured to control two independent power-driven functions of the medical apparatus in response to selective pressure applied on said keypad by a user's foot.

5. (ORIGINAL) The foot control of claim 4 wherein said first operating station is configured to control first and second reversible power-driven functions of the medical apparatus and said second operating station is configured to control third and fourth reversible power-driven functions of the medical apparatus.

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6. (ORIGINAL) A foot control for use with medical apparatus having multiple power-driven functions to position a patient supported thereupon in multiple work positions, comprising:

a base adapted to be supported on a surface;

a plurality of switch elements supported by said base, each of said switch elements being operable, when actuated, to control at least one of the power-driven functions of the medical apparatus; and

a plurality of interchangeable flexible keypads, each of said keypads being configured, in an operative position, to overlie said plurality of switch elements and further being uniquely configured to actuate said switch elements in response to selective pressure applied on said keypad by a user's foot so that one of said keypads is configured, in its operative position, to actuate each of said switch elements and the other of said keypads is configured, in its operative position, to actuate less than each of said switch elements.

7. (ORIGINAL) The foot control of claim 6 wherein said plurality of switch elements comprise a membrane switch.

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8. (ORIGINAL) The foot control of claim 6 wherein each of interchangeable keypads has, in its operative position, a plurality of switch actuators extending from said keypad toward said switch elements, each of said switch actuators being generally in registry with a respective one of said plurality of switch elements to actuate said switch element in response to selective pressure applied on said keypad by a user's foot.

9. (ORIGINAL) The foot control of claim 8 wherein each of said interchangeable keypads and said plurality of switch actuators are integrally molded from a flexible material.

10. (ORIGINAL) The foot control of claim 6 wherein each of said interchangeable keypads is configured to simultaneously actuate a pair of said switch elements in response to selective pressure applied on said keypad by a user's foot so as to simultaneously control two independent power-driven functions of the medical apparatus upon actuation of said pair of switch elements.

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11. (ORIGINAL) The foot control of claim 6 wherein each of said interchangeable keypads and said switch elements define independent first and second operating stations, each of said first and second operating stations being configured to control two independent power-driven functions of the medical apparatus in response to selective pressure applied on said keypad by a user's foot.

12. (ORIGINAL) The foot control of claim 11 wherein said first operating station is configured to control first and second reversible power-driven functions of the medical apparatus and said second operating station is configured to control third and fourth reversible power-driven functions of the medical apparatus.

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13. (ORIGINAL) A foot control for use with medical apparatus having multiple power-driven functions to position a patient supported thereupon between a generally upright sitting position and a work position, comprising:

a base adapted to be supported on a surface;

a plurality of switch elements supported by said base, each of said switch elements being operable, when actuated, to control at least one of the power-driven functions of the medical apparatus; and

a flexible keypad overlying said membrane switch and having a plurality of switch actuators extending from said keypad toward said membrane switch, each of said switch actuators being generally in registry with a respective one of said plurality of switch elements to actuate said switch element in response to selective pressure applied on said keypad by a user's foot;

one of said switch elements being operable, when actuated, to simultaneously control multiple power-driven functions of the medical apparatus to position a patient supported thereupon from the work position to the generally upright sitting position.

14. (ORIGINAL) The foot control of claim 13 wherein said plurality of switch elements comprise a membrane switch.

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15. (ORIGINAL) The foot control of claim 13 wherein said keypad and said plurality of switch actuators are integrally molded from a flexible material.

16. (ORIGINAL) The foot control of claim 13 wherein said keypad is configured to simultaneously actuate a pair of said switch elements in response to selective pressure applied on said keypad by a user's foot so as to simultaneously control two independent power-driven functions of the medical apparatus upon actuation of said pair of switch elements.

17. (ORIGINAL) The foot control of claim 13 wherein said keypad and said switch elements define independent first and second operating stations, each of said first and second operating stations being configured to control two independent power-driven functions of the medical apparatus in response to selective pressure applied on said keypad by a user's foot.

18. (ORIGINAL) The foot control of claim 17 wherein said first operating station is configured to control first and second reversible power-driven functions of the medical apparatus and said second operating station is configured to control third and fourth reversible power-driven functions of the medical apparatus.

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19. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A foot control for use with medical apparatus having multiple power-driven functions to position a patient supported thereupon in multiple work positions, comprising:

a base adapted to be supported on a surface;

a plurality of switch elements supported by said base, each of said switch elements being operable, when actuated, to control at least one of the power-driven functions of the medical apparatus; and

a flexible keypad overlying said plurality of switch elements and being configured to actuate said switch elements in response to selective pressure applied on said keypad by a user's foot;

said keypad and said switch elements defining independent first and second operating stations, each of said first and second operating stations being configured to control two independent power-driven functions of the medical apparatus in response to selective pressure applied on said keypad by a user's foot[[.]].

wherein said first operating station is configured to control first and second reversible power-driven functions of the medical apparatus and said second operating station is configured to control third and fourth reversible power-driven functions of the medical apparatus.

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21. (ORIGINAL) The foot control of claim 19 wherein said switch elements defining said first operating station are aligned on a first axis and a transverse second axis.

22. (ORIGINAL) The foot control of claim 21 wherein said switch elements defining said second operating station are aligned on a third axis and a transverse fourth axis.

23. (ORIGINAL) The foot control of claim 22 wherein said foot control has a central axis and said first and third axes are aligned to intersect said central axis.

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24. (ORIGINAL) An examination table, comprising:

a plurality of support surfaces operable to support a patient in multiple work positions;

a plurality of actuators operatively connected to said support surfaces and having power-driven functions to position the patient in the multiple work positions; and

a foot control according to claim 1 operatively coupled to said actuators to control the power-driven functions of said actuators.

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25. (ORIGINAL) An examination table, comprising:

a plurality of support surfaces operable to support a patient in multiple work positions;

a plurality of actuators operatively connected to said support surfaces and having power-driven functions to position the patient in the multiple work positions; and

a foot control according to claim 6 operatively coupled to said actuators to control the power-driven functions of said actuators.

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26. (ORIGINAL) An examination table, comprising:

a plurality of support surfaces operable to support a patient in multiple work positions;

a plurality of actuators operatively connected to said support surfaces and having power-driven functions to position the patient in the multiple work positions; and

a foot control according to claim 13 operatively coupled to said actuators to control the power-driven functions of said actuators.

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27. (ORIGINAL) An examination table, comprising:

a plurality of support surfaces operable to support a patient in multiple work positions;

a plurality of actuators operatively connected to said support surfaces and having power-driven functions to position the patient in the multiple work positions; and

a foot control according to claim 19 operatively coupled to said actuators to control the power-driven functions of said actuators.

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28. (ORIGINAL) A foot control for use with medical apparatus having multiple power-driven functions to position a patient supported thereupon in multiple work positions, comprising:

a base adapted to be supported on a surface;

a plurality of actuation devices supported by said base, each of said actuation devices being operable, when actuated, to control at least one of the power-driven functions of the medical apparatus; and

a plurality of foot members connected to said base and adapted to contact the surface upon which said base is supported, each of said foot members comprising an outer head portion, a flange portion and a stem portion extending between the outer head portion and the flange portion.

29. (ORIGINAL) The foot control of claim 28 wherein said base includes a first base member having a plurality of apertures formed therein, each of said foot members being mounted within a respective one of said apertures.

30. (ORIGINAL) The foot control of claim 29 wherein said stem portion of each of said foot members extends through a respective one of said apertures.

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31. (ORIGINAL) The foot control of claim 30 wherein said outer head portion and said flange portion of each of said foot members have respective diameters which are greater than a diameter of said apertures.

32. (ORIGINAL) The foot control of claim 31 further comprising a second base member positioned relative to said first base member so as to engage said flange portions of said foot members therebetween.